



# The Town of Fenwick Island

800 Coastal Highway, Fenwick Island, DE 19944-4409

302-539-3011 ~ 302-539-1305 fax

[www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov](http://www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov)

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL DECEMBER 6, 2019

### MINUTES

#### In Attendance

##### Town Council Members:

Mayor Langan, Vice Mayor Mais, Treasurer Bunting, Secretary Merritt, Council Member Carmean, Council Member Houser, Council Member Weistling

##### Staff in Attendance:

Town Manager Tieman, Building Official Schuchman, Chief Boyden, Public Works Manager Locke, Finance Manager Gary, Town Clerk Martin

Mayor Langan began the meeting at 3:30 PM.

#### President's Report

Mayor Langan noted at the last Association of Coastal Towns (ACT) Meeting, it was determined that the officers will rotate yearly. Beginning in January, Mayor Langan will be the President of ACT.

#### For Discussion and Possible Action

##### Resilient Communities Partnership

Debbie Pfeil made the presentation in regards to the Resilient Community Partnership.

##### Request for Funding for Economic Valuation Impact Study

Town Manager Tieman noted that the Center for Inland Bays is requesting funding for a study that will measure the economic value of the inland bays based on investment of cleaning up the bays. The total budget for this study is \$53,749.67.

Chris Bason from the Center for Inland Bays added that the study will direct Federal and State appropriators to clean up the water and support water management.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Carmean, seconded by Council Member Houser, to approve the \$2,000 for the study.

Council Member Carmean commented that this is a nice program and will replace the old policy. She added that she prefers the funding to come from Community Outreach instead of the Realty Transfer Tax Reserve.

Secretary Merritt asked who else is contributing to this study. Chris Bason replied that he has requested funding from other coastal towns.

Council Member Weistling questioned how the \$2,000 was determined. Chris Bason replied that it was his decision.

The motion was amended to have the \$2,000 taken out of Community Outreach. The MOTION passed by majority (6-0, with Vice Mayor Mais abstaining).

#### Request for Funding for Oyster Gardening

Town Manager Tieman noted that the Center for Inland Bays is requesting funding for the Oyster Gardening Program. This program fits in with the recently adopted Sustainability Plan.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Carmean, seconded by Vice Mayor Mais, to approve the \$1,000 for support of oyster gardening.

Council Member Carmean questioned the costs for the program. Chris Bason replied that he thinks it is around \$20,000, which goes to support the oyster gardeners.

Council Member Carmean again asked for the funding to be taken from Community Outreach instead of the Realty Transfer Tax Reserve.

The MOTION passed by majority (6-0, with Vice Mayor Mais abstaining).

#### DeIDOT Easement Request

Stewart Magee from DeIDOT presented the request. The flooding at the corner of Route 54 and Route 1 has been a problem and is getting worse, especially with the torrential downpours lately. To help the situation, the drainage pipe will be rerouted and DeIDOT will be tripling the size of the inlet.

Mayor Langan questioned if this easement agreement is just for the road. Mr. Magee replied yes, for under the road. This area is a narrow footprint and doing the project this way is less invasive than going out onto Route 1.

Council Member Weistling asked if extra drains will be added. Mr. Magee replied no, that they are not in the current design.

Secretary Merritt asked what time of year the work will be done. Mr. Magee replied in the off-season.

Council Member Weistling asked if DeIDOT will maintain this easement. Mr. Magee replied yes.

A MOTION was made by Secretary Merritt, seconded by Council Member Carmean, to approve the agreement. The MOTION passed unanimously.

#### Mutual Assistance Agreement

Town Manager Tieman asked Chief Boyden to present the Mutual Assistance Agreement between the towns of Fenwick Island, Ocean View, and South Bethany.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Carmean, seconded by Secretary Merritt, to postpone discussion and action of this agreement until another time.

Council Member Carmean noted that she is concerned about some issues in the agreement and would like to discuss ramifications with Chief Boyden. Council Member Weistling agreed, adding that he would like for the agreement to be reviewed with Chief Boyden first. Chief Boyden commented that

the agreement has been reviewed by several attorneys and he would be willing to answer any questions now.

The MOTION to postpone the agreement passed unanimously.

### **Approval of Minutes**

A MOTION was made by Treasurer Bunting, seconded by Vice Mayor Mais, to accept the minutes from the October 25, 2019 Regular Council Meeting. The MOTION passed unanimously.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Bunting presented the report for period ending October 31, 2019. The Town received additional RTT in October, and the account is currently \$30,800 over what was budgeted for the entire year.

The auditors have finished the audit and will be making their presentation at the January Council Meeting.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Carmean, seconded by Vice Mayor Mais, to accept the Treasurer's Report. The MOTION passed unanimously.

### **Town Manager's Report**

Town Manager Tieman submitted her report.

### **Department Reports**

#### **Building**

Building Official Schuchman reported that 9 building permits and 4 business licenses were issued in October. She added that she recently received approval from FEMA to elevate 15 Oyster Bay Drive.

#### **Public Works**

Public Works Manager Locke submitted his report.

#### **Police Department**

Chief Boyden submitted his report.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Ad Hoc Commercial District Planning**

Vice Mayor Mais reported that the Committee recently met with the consultant to go over the possible design guidelines and possible ordinance changes. The next meeting will be held on January 22, 2020. The final design guidelines and ordinance changes will be presented to Town Council either in January or February.

#### **Beach**

Becka McWilliams reported that the Annual Fenwick Freeze will take place on January 1, 2020. Pre-registration will take place on December 23, 24, 30, and 31 at Town Hall. The Beach Committee will be meeting on December 17, 2019 at 9:00 AM.

#### **Business Development**

No report.

#### Dredging

Secretary Merritt reported that the dredging engineer has been working with Freeman engineers. There should be a dredging update by the beginning of January.

#### Environmental

Mary Ellen Langan reported that she has spoken to Debbie Pfeil who noted that the Town's Sustainability Plan had very few minor changes from the State.

#### Finance

Vice Mayor Mais reported that the Committee will be meeting in January for discussion of items to be included in the preparation of the budget.

#### Pedestrian Safety

Council Member Carmean reported that the Committee recently met to review the engineering contracts. The Committee voted to forward the Century Engineering contract to Town Council for approval. The contract has been reviewed by the Town Solicitor and she has made a few suggestions to be added to the contract.

At the meeting, the Committee also reviewed the report received back from Peter Hagg from DelDOT in regards to crosswalks. The Committee suggested that blinking lights be added to the crosswalk signs and the Bayard Street crosswalk be moved.

Council Member Carmean recently attended a meeting at the Chamber of Commerce for the "Arrive Alive" campaign to be sponsored this upcoming summer by Highway Safety.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Carmean, seconded by Secretary Merritt, to approve the Century Engineering contract with the suggestions made by the Town Solicitor. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Council Member Carmean noted that the total cost of the contract is \$97,234 which will be taken out of the \$250,000 bond bill the Town received. Council Member Weistling commented that he would like to hold off taking any money out of Realty Transfer Tax Reserve, especially since it was mentioned by Senator Hocker that additional money could be received from the Community Transportation Fund.

#### Planning

No report.

#### Technology

Mayor Langan noted there were 38,128 unique visitors to the Town's website over the last year. In October, there were 2,278 to the website.

Mayor Langan also noted that there have been warnings issued in regards to using charging stations at airports, with people stealing data while the charging stations are in use.

#### Charter & Ordinance

No report.

### **Old Business**

None.

### **New Business**

None.

### **Upcoming Events and Meetings**

Mayor Langan confirmed the upcoming events and meetings as stated on the agenda. He added that the next ACT Meeting will be held on January 24, 2020 at 9:00 AM at Town Hall.

### **Wind Farm**

Mayor Langan noted that the Town has been actively communicating with officials in regards to the wind farm and State Park renovations. On November 6<sup>th</sup>, there was a phone conversation with Shawn Garvin; on November 19<sup>th</sup>, some ACT Mayors met with Shawn Garvin; on November 21<sup>st</sup>, ACT met with Governor Carney, who did not take a stand on the project but did say he likes public and private partnerships; on November 25<sup>th</sup>, ACT sent a letter requesting DNREC to extend the comment and concern deadline; and on December 2<sup>nd</sup> there was a meeting with Rick Meehan (the Mayor of Ocean City), who does not oppose the wind farms but would like them moved out of site. Mayor Meehan noted that in Virginia Beach, the wind farms will be 33 miles out from the shoreline.

Secretary Merritt read Resolution #100-2019 in regards to the wind farm. A copy of the resolution will be sent to all Federal and State Representatives as well as the Governor.

A MOTION was made by Vice Mayor Mais, seconded by Treasurer Bunting, to approve Resolution #100-2019. The MOTION passed unanimously.

### **Public Participation**

Janice Bortner, 1303 Schulz Road

Ms. Bortner noted that the DNREC/Ørsted project should not be trusted, and the Town needs to say "no" to Ørsted immediately. This project will threaten plant and animal species. Ørsted transmission lines are extremely dangerous. No analysis has been done on the impact to humans or the environment, and the power facilities could possibly be carcinogenic.

Marlene Quinn, 5 W. Houston Street

Ms. Quinn noted that the wind farm resolution should be revised to note that the Council approved the resolution unanimously and not by majority.

Nadia Butler, 7 W. Essex Street

Ms. Butler questioned if details on the Inland Bays projects discussed earlier in the meeting can be found on the Town's website. Town Manager Tieman replied that they will be added to the website next week.

As for the ACT Meeting next week and any future meetings, Ms. Butler asked if they will be advertised. Town Manager Tieman responded that they will be posted on the website.

Ms. Butler is concerned about the beach fencing. The old slat fencing that was buried is being exposed and the deteriorating wood is sticking up. She is concerned about the safety hazard and someone getting hurt on the wires. Town Manager Tieman will contact DNREC for assistance.



Janet Eshbach, 1711 Coastal Highway

Ms. Eshbach thanked the Town Council on the wind farm issue.

Mayor Langan noted that in Representative Gray's newsletter, he encouraged everyone to contact State representatives: Senator Coons, Senator Carper, and Representative Blunt-Rochester.

Tom Brennan, 1612 Coastal Highway

Mr. Brennan questioned if we know who is for and against the wind farms. Mayor Langan stated no.

Mr. Brennan then suggested that a non-profit organization be started against the wind farms since in Nantucket, the non-profit was successful in stopping them.

Rosemary Hoy, 705 Schulz Road

Ms. Hoy noted that she heard back from the Governor's office and his assistant did not give the Governor's position on wind farms. She then asked what else could be done. Mayor Langan replied for everyone to contact Federal lawmakers.

Janice Bortner, 1303 Schulz Road

Ms. Bortner stated that accountability is with the Governor and that a meeting with the Governor and legislators should be scheduled in March.

Mark Tingle, 1605 Coastal Highway

Mr. Tingle noted that Speaker of the House Schwartzkopf only thinks that 15 windmills will be put in. He also heard that the windmills off the coast of Rehoboth Beach will only be 10-12 miles out. Mr. Tingle encouraged everyone to contact Pete Schwartzkopf with all concerns.

Mary Ellen Langan, 5 E. King Street

Ms. Langan commented that she feels the total opposite when it comes to the wind farm. Our planet is dying and the wind farm would provide clean energy.

Richard Robinson, 1211 Schulz Road

Mr. Robinson noted that Chesapeake College took down their wind turbines since they were inefficient. He added that he sent letters to all contacts and the only response he received back was from Pete Schwartzkopf who stated that he has no vote on the project.

Mr. Robinson stated that the project has no focus whatsoever. Also, everyone should have access to the planning of the project since this project is going to affect the environment. He feels that there is nothing wrong with the Town filing a lawsuit.

Faye Horner, 708 Bunting Avenue

Ms. Horner could not attend the meeting held at the Indian River High School but feels that maybe the Town could hire an environmental attorney. Secretary Merritt noted that he heard that in 2018, Ørsted paid a lobbyist \$750,000.

Janice Bortner, 1303 Schulz Road

Ms. Bortner would like to know if the Town could form a committee or have a contact person to coordinate information. Secretary Merritt noted that F.I.S.H. is the organization in Fenwick Island that could be contacted.

Amy Kyle, 1205 Bunting Avenue

Ms. Kyle noted that F.I.S.H. is a membership organization of homeowners active on this issue. Although they are involved and can inform the F.I.S.H. members, F.I.S.H. alone cannot take this on themselves.

She feels the reason for the project approval is that the State Parks wants money from Ørsted. DNREC is not thinking of the environmental impacts. No documentation has been provided on this project other than the posters of the park renovations. She did receive a 2-page fax from Ørsted on the benefits Maryland will receive from the wind farm. BOEM refused to give her any contract information and she feels the Federal government needs to get involved. Secretary Merritt agreed, adding that the State Senators need to also get involved.

Richard Benn, 1306 Bunting Avenue

Mr. Benn thanked Ms. Kyle for her hard work. He agrees that F.I.S.H. cannot undertake this, but possibly the Caesar Rodney Institute would be willing if someone would contact them.

Janice Bortner, 1303 Schulz Road

Ms. Bortner asked the Town Council who they think should be in charge in opposing the wind farm. Mayor Langan replied that everyone should keep doing what they are doing and just keep sending letters. ACT is currently working on this as well.

Richard Robinson, 1211 Schulz Road

Mr. Robinson encouraged everyone to follow-up with letters and emails if they do not receive a response. When they aren't responding to you, they are responding to you.

Mike Quinn, 5 W. Houston Street

Mr. Quinn noted that there is rumor that a former Town of Fenwick Island Mayor is to meet with the Governor in regards to the wind farm.

**Adjournment**

A MOTION was made by Vice Mayor Mais, seconded by Secretary Merritt, to adjourn the meeting. The MOTION passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 5:03 PM.



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## **TOWN COUNCIL ORIENTATION DECEMBER 10, 2019 AT 10:00 AM**

### **MINUTES**

#### **In Attendance**

##### Town Council Members:

Mayor Langan, Vice Mayor Mais, Treasurer Bunting, Secretary Merritt, Council Member Carmean, Council Member Houser, Council Member Weistling

##### Committee Chairs in Attendance:

Mary Ellen Langan, Winnie Lewis, Becka McWilliams

##### Staff in Attendance:

Town Manager Tieman, Building Official Schuchman, Finance Manager Gary, Public Works Manager Locke, Town Clerk Martin

##### Also in Attendance:

Mary Schrider-Fox

##### Absent:

Tim Collins, Audrey Serio

Mayor Langan began the meeting at 10:00 AM.

#### **Introduction**

Mayor Langan noted that everyone received a green folder with Council orientation information in it for review. Today's orientation will be on FOIA training, which will be conducted by the Town Solicitor, Mary Schrider-Fox.

#### **Orientation Workshop**

Mary provided handouts in regards to Executive Sessions and Public Records.

Mayor Langan questioned about discussing salaries in an Executive Session. Mary replied that salaries are deemed public information. If increases are done across the board, they must be voted on in public. Any changes to the Personnel Manual must also be done in public. However, if the Executive Session is for a specific employee, the debate can be done in the Executive Session but the action must be done in public.

Council Member Carmean questioned if posting of the agenda must be done 7 business days prior to the meeting. Mary replied that it must be posted 7 calendar days prior to the meeting. If an agenda is amended after it was posted, the revised agenda must list the reason why the revision to the agenda was needed and posted less than 7 days prior to the meeting.

Mary noted that emergency meetings are allowed without 7 day's notice as long as they are called in life threatening situations, such as a severe storm.



As for a quorum of the Town Council, if a group of Council members get together and discuss Town business, then that is considered a meeting. If a group gets together socially not to discuss Town business then it is not a meeting. There is also what is referred to as a "serial quorum", which is a series of emails or text messages that could be deemed a meeting if discussion takes places. Mary suggested not to give opinions or have discussions in a group or through emails, even through personal email and text accounts.

Mayor Langan questioned if members of Town Council can individually email one another about Town situations. Mary replied that they can, but just remember that the email is public record so be mindful on what you are discussing.

Council Member Weistling questioned about #8 and #9 on the Executive Session handout in regards to employee disciplinary and dismissal cases and if you must let the employee know about the Executive Session. Mary responded if there is an Executive Session on a disciplinary process, the employee could be contacted to give them the option if they want the disciplinary process done in public. However, there is no legal obligation to notify the employee.

Secretary Merritt asked if minutes must be taken in Executive Sessions. Mary replied that FOIA requires minutes to be taken, even if they are not detailed and just contain who was in attendance and the subject matter discussed. Executive Sessions are protected from public disclosure as long as they need to be but could be disclosed after a decision has been made.

Mary Ellen questioned if instead of amending the agenda if the new additional item could be discussed under new business on the agenda. Mary responded that new and old business are general headings so the additional item could be brought up under new business, however no decisions can be made on the item.

Mary noted that public participation is not required at meetings. Council Member Carmean asked what should happen if a person has multiple topics they want to discuss in public participation. Mary said that it is allowed if the topics are covered within the posted speaking time frame. Mary Ellen asked if an audience member could be removed. Mary replied that they could if they continuously interrupt other participants and are disruptive. Council Member Weistling asked if it was allowable to limit the amount of time per topic. Mary replied yes, that the allocated time per subject and the length of time that each speaker has should be announced. Secretary Merritt asked if it was allowable to only limit public participation to Town residents. Mary replied no.

Mary noted that all Committees are public bodies and need to follow the FOIA rules just like the Town Council.

Becka commented that in her Committee, due to time constraint, she made a decision on something with the rest of her Committee before the actual meeting. Mary replied that the decision made outside of the meeting should then be reaffirmed at the next Committee meeting. Mary added that the Committee could also empower the Chairperson to make certain decisions.

Council Member Carmean noted that at her Pedestrian Safety Committee, some decision-making goes on behind the scenes. She asked if there was less than a quorum at a meeting would it still be possible for the Committee to make a recommendation to Council. Mary replied yes, since Fenwick Island is a

seasonal community, but suggested creating a decision-making structure to allow the Chairperson to make decisions at the Chairpersons best discretion.

Mary then covered the Code of Ethics, noting the conflicts of interest. Some can be criminal: if any person knowingly or willfully violates any provision of the conflicts of interest they shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable for each such violation by imprisonment of not more than 1 year and by a fine not to exceed \$10,000.

Mary commented that there is a conflict of interest if it tends to impair the person's independence of judgment in the performance of the person's duties with respect to matters that would result in a financial benefit to the person or close relative or if the person or close relative has a financial interest by any action on a matter. Mary noted that a personal bias could also be a conflict of interest.

Council Member Weistling questioned if family members could serve on Council at the same time. Mary replied yes, if the Town Charter allows it.

Mary Ellen asked if an item to be decided on by the Town Council involves a Council Member's spouse, should that Council Member recuse themselves. Mary replied that they should.

### **Adjournment**

A MOTION was made by Council Member Carmean, seconded by Council Member Houser, to adjourn the meeting. The MOTION passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 11:38 AM.



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### **SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MUTUAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WORKSHOP JANUARY 10, 2020**

#### **MINUTES**

#### **In Attendance**

##### Town Council Members:

Mayor Langan, Vice Mayor Mais, Treasurer Bunting, Secretary Merritt, Council Member Carmean, Council Member Houser, Council Member Weistling

##### Staff in Attendance:

Town Manager Tieman, Chief Boyden, Town Clerk Martin

##### Also in Attendance:

Chief McLaughlin (Ocean View Police Department), Chief Lovins (South Bethany Police Department)

Mayor Langan began the workshop at 11:00 AM.

#### **Discussion**

Chief Boyden noted that the Town Charter states that the police jurisdiction is 1 mile out from Town and Title 11 of Delaware Law states when the police can and cannot arrest. With the Mutual Assistance Agreement, it will give the Fenwick Island Police Department the arrest powers in each jurisdiction. Chief Boyden commented that if a Police Chief from either Ocean View or South Bethany contacts him for additional assistance, it still would need to be approved by him. He assured the Town Council that at no time the Town would be left unguarded. He also noted that the agreement was reviewed by all three Town Solicitors.

Council Member Weistling questioned how the Town could not be left unguarded when there is only one officer on duty at a time. Chief Boyden responded that in all cases the other town would contact him for assistance and if an emergency (such as an active shooter situation) he would send the on-duty officer and call someone else in to cover. Council Member Weistling then asked if the Town would need to pay overtime for the officer that was called in. Chief Boyden noted that in emergency situations, he would speak to the other towns to request reimbursement.

Chief Lovins from South Bethany noted that this agreement would enhance public safety. He added that it would assist all towns if they are short-handed since officers could be "loaned" out. Since all officers would be sworn into the other towns, it would also aid in taking evidence to Wilmington. Chief Boyden added that the agreement would add comradery between agencies.

Council Member Carmean asked if Chief Lovins currently has 24/7 police coverage. Chief Lovins responded no, but this agreement could give him the option to have full-time coverage on rare occasions. He added that recently his agency backed up a Fenwick Island officer on New Year's Eve.

Chief McLaughlin from Ocean View commented that he has a larger agency so he will be giving more assistance than what he will be getting. His agency has someone trained on fatal accidents, which would benefit other towns. With this agreement, Fenwick Island would not have to "farm out" assistance. The agreement would be good for morale and officer retention. He added that he has also spoken to Chief

Lovins and Chief Boyden about combining officer training. However, he disagrees about reimbursement for overtime since he has assisted Fenwick Island in the past and has never sent us a bill.

Chief Boyden noted that there are a lot of "gray areas" in Title 11 and this agreement would close those gray areas. Currently, if there is evidence that needs to go to Wilmington, he needs to call in an officer and pay overtime for them to deliver the evidence. With this agreement, the evidence could be turned over to any officer from South Bethany or Ocean View that was heading to Wilmington. He added that currently, if a Fenwick Island officer sees a traffic accident in another town, they need to call the other town and report it. With this agreement, if there is an incident in South Bethany or Ocean View, a Fenwick Island officer could issue a citation. Chief Boyden commented that this is not a lifetime agreement and if the Town sees no benefit, it can get out of the agreement at any time.

Vice Mayor Mais commented that in the past when South Bethany was short-handed, they had to wait for a State trooper. Chief Boyden added that he had to contact the State for additional assistance and it has taken over an hour for the State Police to respond.

Council Member Carmean questioned about the citation paperwork and who would be responsible for the court dates. Chief Boyden responded that it would be the same as the current practice: if an officer is working in another jurisdiction and makes an arrest that goes to court, that agreement and pay would continue when he goes to court.

Council Member Carmean noted that the agreement differs in what was actually discussed today, especially with the clause added that routine non-emergency police services shall be considered sworn police officers. Chief Boyden responded with an example: if Ocean View has a string of burglaries, he could send a Fenwick Island officer to assist, but right now that officer could not arrest any suspects but would have to report it to Ocean View.

Council Member Carmean commented that she is concerned about cost and liability. In the agreement it states that we need to waive all claims, so if one of our officers is in Ocean View and something happens, we cannot recover the cost. Chief Boyden replied that if one of our officers are out of Town assisting the State police we cannot sue the State police – our insurance cover it and Fenwick Island would not hold another town liable. Council Member Carmean noted that is not what the agreement states. Chief Boyden responded that the agreement was reviewed by three Town Solicitors.

Chief McLaughlin commented that liability always exists. As an example, if he is riding through another town and hits a deer, his town is liable and not the other town. In the past, Ocean View has been contacted by Fenwick Island for their K-9 unit for searching for drugs in a car, and if the dog attacks someone, that incident is on Ocean View and not Fenwick Island. Chief Boyden added that is why we have liability insurance. He commented that he will contact the Town's liability insurance prior to signing the agreement to see if there are any issues.

Chief Lovins noted that he is concerned about the safety on Route 1, which is only going to get worse. This agreement would help with any safety issues. Chief McLaughlin commented that this agreement is nothing the Town will be legally bound to and that he is just trying to work together and combine resources. As an example, with any flooding issues in Fenwick Island, he could send a few of his officers to assist. Chief Boyden added that during Hurricane Sandy, he requested additional assistance through the State, however, when the storm hit, the State Police and National Guard were ordered to leave the check points. With this agreement he could contact South Bethany or Ocean View for assistance.



Chief Boyden stated that he receives grant money yearly for pedestrian safety. Per the grant, certain slots need to be filled for extra patrol. This past summer he didn't have enough officers available to fill those slots so he had to return a portion of the grant money. Combining forces and filling those slots with Ocean View and South Bethany officers would allow our Town to keep the grant money.

Council Member Weistling asked if there was a chance that Bethany Beach would also be part of the agreement in the future. Chief Boyden replied that he wasn't sure, but it could be possible that Bethany Beach, or even Selbyville and Dagsboro, could be part of the agreement. He added that fire companies have done this in the past by combining forces. Treasurer Bunting asked why Bethany Beach was never approached. Chief Boyden replied that he wasn't sure since they do not border our Town nor have they shown any interest.

Maureen Hartman, Town Manager of South Bethany, noted that when her town was short-handed, Ocean View and Fenwick Island assisted. The agreement is just a continuation of the original assistance agreement. Chief McLaughlin added that he felt assisting South Bethany was a positive experience and the only difference in that agreement versus this agreement is that each officer would be sworn into the other towns.

Council Member Houser questioned that in the past has Bethany Beach ever come into other towns to assist. Chief Boyden replied yes, but not as common as South Bethany or Selbyville. Chief McLaughlin noted that he works with Bethany Beach and South Bethany quite frequently.

Chief Boyden noted that this is not the first agreement that the Town has ever entered before. Several times a year the Town signs Memos of Agreement with State agencies. He added that he works with Ocean View and South Bethany almost daily.

### **Adjournment**

A MOTION was made by Council Member Houser, seconded by Treasurer Bunting, to adjourn the meeting. The MOTION passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.